

Community and Advocacy Services Division

Staff changes:

- Alba Perez resigned from the Office of Latino Affairs effective September 8 to accept a position with a consulting firm. This position will be posted soon.
- Monica Stone accepted the position of Administrator for the Community Advocacy and Services Division effective July 17.

CAS Division Strategic Planning:

The CAS Division met on September 10 to begin its strategic plan. An overall goal statement for the Division was created – Iowa's state government is just, equal, accessible and inclusive. Key indicators, or changes, on which the Division will focus in the next 3 – 5 years were established:

- Increased collaboration with state, local and federal agencies.
- More positive visibility for, and engagement, in the vision of DHR and CAS.
- Improved language access.
- Increased civic participation/engagement among the communities we serve.
- More connections with youth in the communities we serve.

The next steps in our strategic planning process will be to establish a measurement plan to allow us to understand how our actions are working to achieve our goal, along with an action plan and communication plan that will detail the specific work to take place over the upcoming 1 – 3 years.

We will be seeking input, advice and assistance from our CAS Commissions and stakeholder groups regarding the development and implementation of our action and communications plans throughout the month of October.

Division Highlights:

- The Iowa Women and the Law Guidebook was updated and is posted on the DHR web site. This Guidebook provides information for women on issues including voting rights, credit and finance, criminal law, domestic violence, education, employment, housing, marriage and divorce, parental responsibility, adoption, privacy, public assistance, sexual assault, small business, stalking and wills.
- There will be an event in April for equal pay week for women. More information will be provided to the Board as details become available.

- The Youth Leadership Forum, a leadership training event for disabled youth, held a successful week of development and education for 40 young Iowans. Recruitment and development for next year's event has already begun.
- An employment guide for businesses wanting to employ refugees was completed in conjunction with Iowa Workforce Development and the Bureau of Refugee services.
- An event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act was held on the Capitol Complex in July in collaboration with Disability Rights Iowa and several other organizations. Speakers included legislators and leaders in the disability rights community.
- A Disability & Employment Training and Conference was held August 25, 2015 in conjunction with Vocational Rehabilitation, Workforce Development and the Department of Education. Nearly 400 people attended, and due to the positive response, plans are being made to hold the event again next year.
- A planning meeting for the 2016 Martin Luther King will be held September 25 in the Lucas Building.
- Monica Stone has been invited to meet with the SALUD's leadership team in Spirit Lake on October 3 for a brief presentation, followed by a Q & A and conversation.